

twenty-three and a half years ago, there was a small, neat church, but no school or presbytery, and he might tell them that the offerings he received on the first Sunday were spent in buying that necessary commodity—a bed. In 1885 their school was established with an attendance of 50, which had now increased to 285. It would be ungrateful of him were he not to avail himself of the present opportunity of testifying his gratitude to the Sisters of St. Joseph for the excellent work they had done in every department of school training, and also controlling the Christian education of the young. The increasing population had demanded a larger church, and again the parishioners had come forward, and the present church was opened on May 12, 1895. Three years later the new convent was built. They had now built the hall in which they were seated at a cost of £900, thus making a total of £10,000 having been spent since he came. To whom was this due? It was to the people themselves, who with their generosity and constant efforts had assisted him in the further advancement of religion in the parish. He offered them his sincerest thanks for what they had done, and he also offered his thanks to the other religious bodies who had so kindly given them their support and good wishes in the furtherance of their works. The address had given him proof of their sympathy, and their loyalty was shown by being present that night to wish him 'Good-bye and God-speed' in his new work. They had also given him a tangible token of their appreciation of his efforts on their behalf. The poet had said, 'Man wants but little here below, nor wants that little long.' In his case that was so, and it was his intention to tell them that to-morrow he would be taking to Meeanee half his heart and leaving one half in Hastings. He would also be leaving one half of the purse of sovereigns in Hastings, and the other half he would take with him to Meeanee, where he was to conduct a college for students. There in the new church he would have erected a stained-glass window from the parishioners of Hastings. The other half he would ask them to accept towards the liquidation of the debt on St. Patrick's Hall, which was now £400. He wished to thank them one and all for their kindness to him during the period he had been in Hastings. He had worked in harmony with them, and he did not think any people could have placed greater confidence in their priest than they had done with him. He wished to thank Rev. Mr. Hobbs for the kind words that he had spoken that evening, and also for the kind reference he had made to him in St. Matthew's Church the previous Sunday. He (Dean Smyth) had always held Mr. Hobbs in the highest esteem, and knew him to be a man devoted to his people. In the floods of 1897 he had found Mr. Hobbs devoted to one and all regardless of creed and class. And he hoped that Mr. Hobbs would long be spared to the parishioners of St. Matthew's. Dean Smyth also thanked Mr. Dillon, M.P., who had come so far in unfavorable weather to be present that night; the other speakers, the orchestra, and the organisers of the gathering. In thanking the medical profession, of which Drs. Macdonnell and Barcroft were representatives that night, the Dean spoke highly of the kindness and courtesy extended to him whenever their respective duties brought them in contact. Dean Smyth paid a high tribute to Father Quinn, who, he said, had been his right hand for nearly three years. Continuing, Dean Smyth said that in a few weeks they would have another priest—one who had been admired and esteemed by every creed and class, and whose fame had gone far and wide. He wished Father Keogh all success in his new work, and hoped they would all be united in the bonds of holy charity. 'Duty calls me from you,' concluded Dean Smyth, 'and I must say good-bye, and may God bless you.'

After the speeches, the function took the form of a conversazione. Dean Smyth then mingled with the people in the body of the hall, and received a hearty handshake from nearly everyone present.

At the Sacred Heart church on Sunday evening, Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., preached an eloquent discourse on the dignity, duties, and responsibilities of the priesthood. He made particular reference to the work accomplished by the zeal and energy of the Very Rev. Dean Smyth during his stay of over twenty-three years in Hastings. Such fruitful labors, combined with his wide experience, sound judgment, and other high qualifications, eminently fitted him to fill the responsible position of superior of St. Mary's Seminary at Meeanee, so long and ably filled by his learned predecessor, Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy.

Confidence always gives pleasure to the man in whom it is placed. It is a tribute which we pay to his merit; it is a treasure which we entrust to his honor; it is a pledge which gives him a right over us, and a kind of dependence to which we subject ourselves voluntarily.

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OTAKI MAORI MISSION

(From an occasional correspondent.)

June 26.

For some years past strenuous efforts have been made by our missionary clergy to lift up the Native race and provide it with all the means of redemption that our holy Church has at her disposal. In August, 1908, a fair number of Maori girls were assembled together on our 'marae' to receive a special training and be made the first members of an association of Children of Mary, devoted to the purification of Maori life. Encouraged by the success that rewarded this initial attempt, we have since that date notably increased the membership of the association. Acting on the same principle, we convened on June 6 a general meeting of young men and catechists in order to give them a more uniform training and fit them for the battle of life. Never in the whole history of the Catholic Church in New Zealand, so far as this archdiocese is concerned, has there been such a representative gathering as the one now at an end. From the Bay of Plenty in the far north to Kaikoura in the South Island, nearly every tribe had sent its contingent, catechists, influential men and chiefs of the highest rank being present in large numbers. Amongst these we may mention: Wiki Taitoko (daughter of Major Kemp), Te Heuheu Tukino, of Taupo, Erena te Ara, of Te Awahuri, Matene Kahuariki, of Kaikoura, Te Piwa, of Hastings. Mr. J. R. McDonald, of Levin, always willing and ready to help us in all our undertakings for the benefit of the Maori race, spared neither time nor trouble to secure the success of the meeting. From a clerical point of view, our Otaki staff was reinforced by Rev. Fathers Maillard and Vibaud, the latter being accompanied by a deputation of the Wanganui tribes. Later in the week his Grace the Archbishop and Dean Regnault, Provincial of the Society of Mary, were present at the final solemnities.

The meeting began on Sunday, June 6, after Mass. Previous to this, the Maaupoko tribe had taken the management of our 'marae,' and together with our Otaki Catholic Natives had extended a warm welcome to all our visiting guests. Many of the speeches delivered on these occasions would be worth recording. Every speaker praised the idea that was being carried out by such gatherings, and expressed the wish that they should be repeated from time to time. In his introductory remarks with regard to the object of the meeting, Father Cognet explained that a programme of instructions had been arranged by his confreres (Fathers Melu and Delach) and himself, covering the essential truths of our holy faith, the meaning of the most important ceremonies of the Church, and the line of conduct which the Maori young men, and especially the catechists, should be prepared to follow. This programme was successfully carried out during the week, three or four instructions being delivered every day. The intervals were filled up by singing, innocent recreations, etc. Throughout the whole meeting the most perfect order and discipline prevailed, and no complaint whatsoever was heard. On Thursday, June 10, a rather sad event marred the joy and fervor of our flock. One of our best young men belonging to the Hawke's Bay district, who had come here too soon after a severe attack of pleurisy, had a relapse, and, in spite of all the care bestowed on him at the local hospital, passed away, duly and perfectly prepared. Ordinarily in such cases anyone acquainted with the Maori customs would have expected our meeting to collapse and be turned into a tangi. But, no! After giving due expression to their grief, the assembled tribes unanimously decided to go on with our programme, and to keep the remains of their departed friend for the last day of the meeting.

On Wednesday afternoon, and also on the following days, the Confessional was scarcely ever left empty. Altogether 283 Confessions and 257 Communions were recorded during the week. In addition to these satisfactory figures, there were three marriages, sixteen Baptisms, and 107 Confirmations as the outcome of our gathering. Should we not conclude that our efforts as well as the generosity of our benefactors have not been in vain?

On Thursday, at noon, a hearty reception, with display of green boughs, hakas, and congratulatory speeches, was extended to Dean Regnault, S.M., who made a very felicitous reply. The same ceremony was repeated on Saturday at noon, when his Grace Archbishop Redwood arrived. Speeches of greeting were delivered by Messrs. J. R. McDonald, Te Heuheu Tukino, Te Piwa, and Matene Kahuariki, as representatives of the different tribes present. His Grace, for whom Father Cognet acted as interpreter, in acknowledging the hearty welcome given him, expressed his extreme pleasure at being with them that day and witnessing such a large and representative gathering of Catholic Natives. He trusted the good they had de-

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